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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 14 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)*]

2012/11. Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Recalling also the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[4] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[5] in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling further its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto,[6] one hundred and fifty-two States and one regional integration organization have signed and one hundred and seventeen States have ratified or acceded to and one regional integration organization has formally confirmed the Convention and ninety States have signed and seventy-one States have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol, and

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[4] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

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encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Noting that the Convention provides comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

Noting also that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population,[7] of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries,[8] and recognizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting their equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules, the World Programme of Action and the Convention, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating discrimination based on disability and in mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda for the promotion of the linkages between disability and global development priorities, including poverty reduction and sustainable development,

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[7] According to the *World Report on Disability*, published in 2011 by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability.

[8] In General Assembly resolution 65/186, it is stated that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries. The figure of 80 per cent, which originated from the United Nations Development Programme, was quoted in a discussion paper entitled "Disability and poverty: a survey of World Bank poverty assessments and implications" (Jeanine Braithwaite and Daniel Mont, SP discussion paper No. 0805, World Bank, February 2008).

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day High-level Meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, during its sixty-eighth session, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;[10]

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support the objectives of the Trust Fund, including by providing voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the Goals, to assess the extent to which persons with disabilities have benefited from those efforts;

6. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector to engage in cooperative arrangements and strategic partnerships to facilitate technical cooperation to advance disability-inclusive development;

7. *Encourages* stakeholders at the regional and subregional levels to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in all forms of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to build collaborative frameworks for mainstreaming disability, including the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level;

8. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, within its existing resources, and other stakeholders to improve data and statistics on disability, taking into account existing guidelines published by the United Nations, as a basis for strengthening evidence-based policymaking and to share good practices and experiences in order to overcome barriers and further advance disability-inclusive development;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance partnerships for international cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and to enhance its role in forging partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector, to provide opportunities and forums, within existing resources, for promoting linkages between disability and the mainstream development agenda;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda, including in the setting up of the post-2015 United Nations development framework,

[9] E/CN.5/2012/6.

[10] See E/CN.5/2012/7.

in the dialogues and outcomes of relevant United Nations development conferences and in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, as appropriate;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation in the implementation of the international development goals, and the need to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to collaborate, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, including special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with his or her mandate;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session an annual report on his activities on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission at its fifty-first session, as a contribution to the upcoming High-level Meeting of the General Assembly.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012